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Approved For Release 2006/09/25 : CIA-RDP79R00603A002500060001-1

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DISTRIBUTION: Turkish Troops on Cyprus, 27 May 1977

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THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Officers

27 May 1977

NOTE FOR: Nelson Ledsky

SUBJECT : IIM, Turkish Troops on Cyprus

1. Attached is a short Interagency Intelligence Memorandum, updating our assessment of Turkish troop strength on Cyprus. We timed this paper to be of use to those who will draft the administration's bimonthly report on Cyprus to Congress. We will provide a similar wrapup at the end of July.

2. Please note the extent to which documentary sources confirm the estimates we have been holding on these forces.

3. A copy of the IIM will be sent to Greg Treverton at the NSC.



National Intelligence Officer
for Western Europe

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27 May 1977

INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Turkish Troops on Cyprus*

1. Overall Turkish mainland troop strength on Cyprus has varied little over the past several months. [redacted] Turkish troops on the island numbered 31,502 on 11 May. Previous documentary evidence listed Turkish troop levels on Cyprus at slightly over 31,000 men in January of this year.

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2. Although the Turkish Cypriot Security Force has been increasing in size and effectiveness, recent evidence indicates that its strength is closer to 4,000 than to the previously estimated 5,000-6,000 men. [redacted]

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[redacted] The Turks are not likely to allow any withdrawal of mainland troops to result in Turkish Cypriots forces being outnumbered by the Greek Cypriots. [redacted]

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[redacted] that the Turks intend to keep at least a brigade (about 5,000 men) on the island even after a peace treaty.

3. There is no military reason why a sizable draw-down of Turkish troop strength on Cyprus could not be implemented. The determining factor for such a decision, however, will be political and will hinge on the outcome of the elections on 5 June. There have been indications [redacted] since last October that the Turkish General Staff has tentative plans to withdraw about 5,000 men from Cyprus. [redacted]

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* This paper was requested by the Director, Office of Southern European Affairs, Department of State. It was drafted by CIA/OSR at the request of the NIO/WE; coordination with DIA and INR was effected at the working level.

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